

ABOUT THE LITTLE ROCK CONFERENCE

An Interesting Account By
State Supt. Joyner

GREAT EDUCATIONAL MEET

thirteenth Annual Conference for Education in the South and Meeting of Southern State Superintendents, the Most Notable and Representative of Any Yet Held—Fine Spirit of Harmony Dominated—Specific Mention of Much That Was Accomplished.

Hon. J. Y. Joyner, North Carolina's able and efficient State Superintendent of Public Instruction, who has come to be known throughout the United States as one of the most famous of Southern educational officials, and who was a prominent figure at the Little Rock Conference, just held, talked about that important occasion most interestingly to *The News and Observer* yesterday. Said he:

"The Thirteenth Annual Conference for Education in the South, held at Little Rock, Ark., last week, was, in my opinion, and in the expressed opinion of many others who have attended these conferences regularly, the most notable and representative of all these conferences. The registered attendance was twelve hundred, representing thirteen Southern States, and a number of visitors from Western and Northern States. The program was carefully planned and admirably carried out. Only one speaker on the program failed to attend.

"The Association of Southern State Superintendents met, as usual, in connection with the Conference. Every Southern State Superintendent, except two, was present. These two were detained by important official business. The Association had charge of the Thursday morning session of the Conference, and, in addition, held several important and profitable round table meetings for the discussion of the educational problems and progress in their various States, and of the best ways and means of advancing the cause of education in the South, exchanging and comparing their views and experiences.

"The general program of the Conference included able discussions by representative educators of many of the most vital educational questions and of the most important educational movements, such as agricultural and industrial education, public high schools, the work and place of the smaller colleges—denominational and private, the woman's work for the betterment of public schools, public health and public education, brief reports of the educational progress of the year in the various Southern States, etc. The afternoons were devoted to round table conferences of the various groups of workers in the different fields, the State Supervisors of public high schools, the supervisors of elementary schools, the women workers for school improvement, the representatives of the agricultural colleges and high schools and agricultural extension work. Two important and profitable general conferences on agricultural education were held on Thursday and Friday afternoons and were largely attended. The discussions in these conferences were participated in by some of the ablest workers in this field of educational work, not only in the South, but in the West, including also Dr. Knapp and a number of his field workers in agricultural extension. Farm life education for the country boys and girls was perhaps the central subject of the meeting of the entire Conference.

"A fine spirit of harmony, earnestness and enthusiasm dominated the Conference. It was an unusually able and representative body. President Godwin presided over the general meetings with his usual ability, modesty, courtesy and sprightliness. He is a most remarkable presiding officer and an unusual combination of a business man and a literary man, of intellectuality and spirituality. His manifest spirit of benevolence and unselfish service is always contagious.

"North Carolina was most creditably represented by a delegation of about twenty-five, including representatives of nearly every phase of the State's educational work and civic service. No addresses at the Conference attracted more attention and called forth more favorable comment than those of Dr. R. H. Lewis on public health in the public schools, and Mrs. W. R. Hollowell on the woman's work for the public schools. Eighteen of the North Carolina delegation, under the management of Prof. R. C. Brooks, made the trip

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to Little Rock and return together, in their own special Pullman car. A more congenial party never assembled. It was a veritable North Carolina house party all the way to Little Rock and back. The memory of the delightful journey will be a bright spot in the life of every member of the party.

"Too much cannot be said about the cordial reception and the hospitable entertainment of the Conference by the Little Rock people. They left nothing undone that could contribute to the comfort and the pleasure of their guests.

"The reports from the various Southern States showed most encouraging and commendable educational progress in all the States, and inspired in every loyal Southern heart the hope for brighter days ahead. They revealed also that North Carolina cannot afford to rest for a minute on her oars, if she is to keep pace with her sister Southern States. She has enjoyed the reputation of leading in a number of progressive educational movements in the past, but some of her sister States are leading her now in some of these; and she cannot afford to relax in her efforts, if she hopes to keep up with the procession and to set the pace in other movements. Our people must not get the idea that the Old North State is the only pebble on the beach. If they could have heard these reports from the other Southern States, they would realize that some of these States are setting a pace for North Carolina in some things that will require renewed effort on the part of North Carolinians if they are to keep up with them.

"I was especially impressed with the immediate necessity of arousing the people upon the question of providing for the simple and practical instruction in our public schools of the country boys and girls in subjects relating to agricultural pursuits and home-making, such as would fit them for life on the farm, and upon the question of providing for the better preparation of teachers for these and other subjects.

"I was also impressed with the urgent need of providing somewhere in the State for the professional training of men for teaching and for school administration as superintendents of city schools and county schools. The provision by the State for the training of women teachers is far ahead of the provision for the training of men teachers, and in my opinion is equal to, and perhaps in advance of that of any other Southern State. The means for the training of men for the profession of teaching in North Carolina are sadly inadequate.

"The next General Assembly would do well to heed the urgent recommendation of President Venable and Prof. Noble, of the University, for the establishment of either a Teachers' College, or a Department of Education equal in dignity and equipment to any other department of the University, especially for the professional training of men for teaching and school administration. The A. and M. College and the State Normal Schools should also be provided with sufficient means and required to make adequate provision for the preparation of teachers especially for instruction in agricultural and home-making subjects. The State has an opportunity now to lead the South in preparing adequately for the training of men for the profession of teaching.

"There will always be, and always ought to be, more women teachers than men teachers in the public schools; but to give permanency and virility to the profession, to prevent the effeminization of education and to provide in the school, as in the home for the proper education of the children, it is absolutely necessary to have a number of strong, well-trained men teachers in the schools. The average professional life of the woman teacher is about four and one-half years. The majority of men trained for the profession, as doctors and lawyers are trained for theirs, would make it their life work, and thereby aid in giving permanency to the profession and in elevating the standards of it.

"Most of these trained men would also become, as county superintendents, city superintendents and the principals of high schools, continuous trainers of the rank and file of the public school teachers. The State would, therefore, for these reasons, derive more and longer dividends from the professional training of men than from the professional training of women.

"At no previous time in the history of the State has the demand for trained men teachers been so insistent, and the inducements for men to enter the profession so great."

Pamlico Leads in Green Peas.

(New Bern Sun.)

Pamlico county can boast of making the first shipment of green peas this season from the Eastern section of the State. About 50 baskets passed through New Bern this morning, shipped by express to produce merchants in several Northern cities.

NOTHING FROM WINNER

HIS CASE NOT OUT OF HANDS OF THE COURT—CAN ONLY APPEAL TO GOVERNOR.

(Special to News and Observer.)

Wilmington, April 14.—There were no developments today in the case of Winner, the convicted blind tiger, who made the sensational affidavit Tuesday as to the existence of a regular organization to circumvent the prohibition law here, with a view of getting his sentence of six months commuted. However, the term of court at which Winner was convicted, having expired by limitation Saturday, the present term being held here by Judge Cooke being a new term for the trial of civil cases, the presiding judge has no power to commute the sentence, and the case can only be taken up to the Governor for executive clemency.

Winner has made so many conflicting statements in general, that his case has been so weakened that it seems likely there will be no investigation of the charges unless the same takes the form of an inquisition before the mayor into the violations of the law certified to by Winner.

THE FIRST AFFIDAVIT.

The Sensational Charge That a Conspiracy Exists to Violate the Law and That Protection is Guaranteed to Members of Association No. 6.

The substance of the affidavit of Mr. Winner has already appeared in these columns. The statement is so extraordinary that the affidavit in full is printed below:

"State of North Carolina, County of New Hanover.

"Marion L. Winner, being first duly sworn, deposes and says: That while he denies the sale of liquor to J. J. Shepard, yet he desires to make this explanation of transactions for the sale of liquor which have occurred in his place of business during the past six months.

"This explanation consists of the narration of the inducements held out to the affiant by certain parties under such circumstances that affiant was led to believe in their good faith and security.

"That the parties who made the representations that induced the affiant to engage in the unlawful sale of liquor have absolutely deserted him and he feels justified in making this explanation in the hope that the good people of this town might join with him in asking His Honor, Judge C. M. Cooke, to reduce as far as is consistent the character of sentence imposed upon said affiant by reason of his conviction at the last term of criminal court, and thereby not permit former pretended friends to make a scape-goat of said affiant, thereby permitting them to boast that the only 'blind tiger' in Wilmington has been caught and punished, whereas affiant knows that there are over one hundred individuals in this city who hold United States licenses for the sale of liquor. Affiant knows that the majority of the holders of said liquor licenses are banded together in an association or brotherhood known as Association Number Six. This association is perfected in the organization for purposes of mutual protection in the most splendid and approved manner. It has a president, vice-president, a secretary, and a treasurer. This organization collects its revenue in the nature of a monthly assessment and in my case amounted to \$5 for each and every month and collected since I have been a member. During my membership in the organization I have paid ship in to the treasurer more than \$75. While the organization keeps a record of its meetings it has never given to me a written receipt for any of the payments by me made.

"The members of Organization Number Six were tacitly given to understand that the association could not exist without funds and that funds were used for political and other purposes. The members of said organization were also tacitly given to understand that should they be arrested and brought before the Recorder's court that the severest punishment meted out to the said members of the organization would not exceed a fine and costs, or in other words no road sentences would be adjudged against members of this organization. It was understood by the members of this organization that protection consisted not only of light sentences in the court but of intimations when it would no longer be safe to expect the court in the face of public sentiment to continue to mete out fines and costs. No such intimation, or courtesy, was extended me. Therefore, I thought there was no use of discontinuing my practice of selling liquor until the security or safety of the fine and cost sentence was withdrawn by intimation that it could no longer be extended.

"Association Number Six does not operate and pass upon the grave questions that are presented for its consideration without the advice of one learned in the law and, therefore, has a regularly retained attorney.

"This statement is made for the sole purpose of attempting to show

the cruel and unusual punishment inflicted upon me and in the hope that this full, open confession, and the exposure of those who have deserted me, will aid me in my earnest plea that leniency be extended.

"MARION L. WINNER.

"Sworn and subscribed to this 11th day of April, 1910."

DUNN ITEMS.

Takes a Brooklyn Bride—Plenty of Candidates.

(Special to News and Observer.)

Dunn, April 16.—Mr. Morris Freshman was married Tuesday evening in Baltimore to Miss Theresa Yaffe, of Brooklyn, N. Y. They reached here Friday morning. Mrs. Freshman is welcomed to our town.

Mr. James A. Stewart, the census taker for our town, began yesterday, and says he can clean up his job in two weeks.

Mr. N. A. Townsend is the only aspirant for mayor thus far. Mayor R. L. Godwin declines to make the race this time.

Harnett's political pot is beginning to "bile." We have plenty of aspirants for all the offices and expect to land a judge and a congressman. For sheriff we have three candidates; for treasurer, five, and some townships not heard from yet.

Bule's Creek commencement is May 11th and 12th. Rev. Livingston Johnson will deliver the annual address on the 12th.

The Retail Merchants' Association met Tuesday night in the mayor's office and resolved for progress and improvement—a good slogan for any town.

The city fathers have secured a traction engine and are making some fine streets in town, grading and smoothing them.

This has been a week of cotton planting. A great many people have put seed in the ground since the rain in this section.

ESCAPES WERE NARROW

Middlesex Men Had to Flee for Their Lives

Left Clothes Behind and in Streets Barefooted While a Negro Jumped From a Second Story and Bucket Brigade Used Water From a Rain Filled Hole.

That plucky Middlesex is not daunted by the fire which destroyed about one-half of its business section, and will at once get to work to replace the frame buildings swept away with modern brick structures is what was to be expected from its progressive business men.

The origin of the fire of Tuesday night in the store of Mr. R. L. Haynes has not yet been discovered, though there is a report that it was probably from an oil lamp left burning. The flames spread rapidly and the fight of the citizens to save the buildings was heroic. When the store of High Brothers, across the street from the other burning buildings caught a valiant attempt was made to save it, a bucket brigade getting water from a deep hole near the store, a heavy rain having just filled it up. Finally the smoke and the intense heat drove away the workers, but not before one-half of the goods in the store were taken out and saved, nothing being saved from the other six stores burned.

A number of citizens had narrow escapes from death or injury. Over the Middlesex Drug Company's store Mr. G. R. Crews and Mr. Carl Harper were asleep, and in escaping Mr. Harper lost nearly all his clothing, while Mr. Crews lost all his, reaching the street in his bare feet, not having had time to get on his shoes. In the attic of a vacant store a negro, Ed. Harris, was sleeping, and he was aroused so late that he only escaped by jumping from the second story to an awning, sliding down then to the ground.

With the disaster as heavy as it is there is rejoicing in Middlesex that it was not worse, for the entire town was threatened and but for a favorable wind other places would have been burned. The report comes that the citizens will at once get to work to rebuild in brick, making the burned district bigger and better after the loss of property valued at some \$30,000 with about \$11,000 insurance.

NO FRAUD AT NEW ORLEANS.

The Sugar Washing There Was All Right.

New Orleans, La., April 16.—That reports of fraud in the weighing of sugar at the port of New Orleans were without grounds and that the government had not lost a penny in this connection was the gist of the report which Assistant Attorney General Denison late today placed in the hands of the United States grand jury in this city. Mr. Denison was one of the government's special attorneys in the sugar cases in New York and has been in charge of the investigation here.